

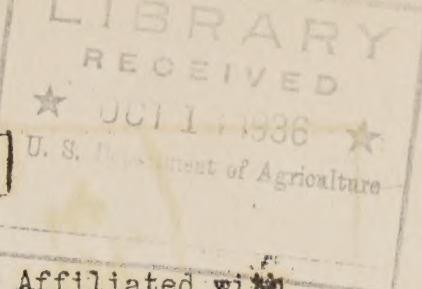
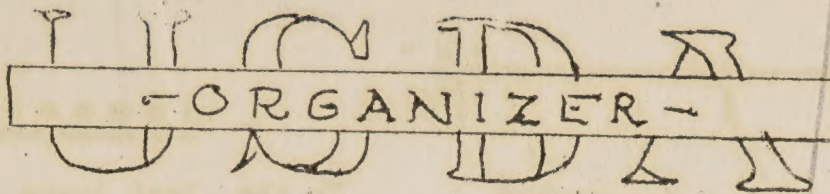
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American Federation  
of  
Government Employees

Lodge 31 A.F.G.E.

Affiliated with  
American Federation  
of Labor

Vol. 1, No. 2

June, 1936

### DR. STOCKBERGER INTERVIEWED

#### Employee Relationship Policy

Thursday morning, May 28th, the special Grievance Committee working on the problem of much needed re-allocations called upon Dr. Stockberger, Director of Personnel, U. S. Department of Agriculture, for a conference on the procedure to be followed in the handling of grievances and other personnel problems. This conference was a continuation of one held the week before.

Acting upon instructions from Lodge 31, A.F.G.E., the committee requested Dr. Stockberger to enunciate, if possible, the administration policy in the handling of personnel matters.

Dr. Stockberger complied by quoting from the "Employee Relationship Policy", a booklet published by the Tennessee Valley Authority, which reads in part as follows:

"There shall be no discrimination against representatives of employees ..... nor shall employees suffer discrimination because of membership or non-membership in any organization or association of employees.

"Disputes between an employee and the management, growing out of grievances or out of the interpretation or application of the published rules and regulations ... governing labor standards, rates of

pay, classification, hours of work, employment conditions and the like, shall be handled by the employee or his representative through established supervisory channels, up to and including the designated chief supervisory officer concerned. .... Failing prompt and satisfactory adjustment, the employee or his representative may appeal the dispute to the central office.... for investigation and adjustment."

Dr. Stockberger stated that the above quotation agrees closely with the general policy of the Department, and indicated that he regarded any duly organized union committee as an authorized employee representative.

Lodge 31, as well as the A.F.G.E. at large, is particularly interested at present in cases of improper allocations, and is prepared to handle not only these but also other complaints through its Grievance Committee - made up of the following members:

Martin Leatherman, Chairman,  
2148 South Building.

James Maxwell, Federal Surplus  
Commodities, 19th & D, N.W.

Albert Hirt, 40-E Administration  
Building.

E. L. Warren, Room 3718,  
South Building.

GILBERT E. HYATT

WILL LECTURE

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1936 - 8:00 P.M., ROOM 2050 SOUTH BUILDING  
(See announcement on Page 3.)





## J O B   S E C U R I T Y

Rumors of impending furloughs for many AAA employees, and further indications that an "economy drive" is to be expected during the next session of Congress have again aroused the fears of both Civil Service and Emergency Agency employees as to the security of their jobs.

In the last issue of the ORGANIZER a proposed program to meet the needs of employees of Emergency Agencies was outlined. During the past two weeks Senators O'Mahoney and La Follette have introduced a bill to strengthen and extend the merit system.

We would like to know what you think about these suggestions and the proposed legislation. What additional steps should be taken by this lodge to assure job security? What are your problems and how can they be met? We must obtain the united thought and effort of all employees in order to plan a practical program intelligently.

Send your comments to E. L. Warren, Room 3718, South Building, or telephone Ext. 2040 after 4:30 P.M.

## O V E R T I M E

In the last issue of the Organizer there was discussed the question of the number of hours in the working week and the various proposals in that connection which have been made on the Hill. Let us bear in mind, however, that the good effect of even a thirty-hour week can be nullified by excessive overtime.

The following should be borne in mind in considering the overtime problem.

(1) Under the present law, seven hours is the minimum time that can be put in in any one day, except Saturday.

(2) The heads of departments, by special order, may extend the hours of any employee, but without additional compensation.

(3) Administrative officers who are anxious to make a record for economy may postpone hiring additional necessary employees, at the expense of employees who are already overburdened.

Item No. (1) can be changed by statute. For example, we have the Saturday half-holiday, which became law as late as 1931.

Item No. (2) can also be changed by Congressional legislation. Thus, trade employees whose wages are set by wage boards or other wage-fixing authorities, are compensated for overtime at the rate of time and one-half.

Item No. (3) can only be checked by the publicity and pressure that an organization which is mindful of the interests of Government employees can exercise. Your Government lodge can protest against the administrative officer who builds up his own record at your expense.

For that matter it is necessary to band together to prevent discrimination in making people work overtime, to limit overtime and to get compensation for it from Congress. How about letting overtime accumulate? Do you agree with the Report of the Committee on Hours of Duty and Overtime to the Civil Service Commission

(Continued on Page 3)



\* \* \* \* \*

U.S.D.A. ORGANIZER

Published Monthly by A.F.G.E.  
Lodge 31. Send contributions,  
articles, notices, cartoons,  
etc., to A. A. Hirt, Room 40-E  
Administration Building.

\* \* \* \* \*

O V E R T I M E

May 6, 1936, that "any excess less than thirty minutes in a day shall not be reported as overtime"? Do they apply the same rule when you come to work late?

Mechanics and crafts people get their aims from Congress because they are well organized. They point the way.

From July 1, 1936 to December 31, 1936, Government agencies are compelled by the provisions of the Leave Bill, Public No. 471, approved March 14 of this year, to report to the Civil Service Commission on the amount of overtime in each department, probably with a view to Congressional legislation on the subject. Why not let Congress and your administrative supervisors know how you feel about overtime? You can make your views both effective and safe by joining with people who feel the same way you do.

\* \* \* \* \*

YOU ARE INVITED

To Lodge 31 Committee Meetings,  
to the General Membership Meeting June 18, Room 2050 South Building, 8 P.M. (Thursday), to join the "Organizer" staff or any of the standing committees. You are invited to take part in activities which will be beneficial to yourself and others.

\* \* \* \* \*

A STIMULATING SPEAKER

Gilbert E. Hyatt, Legislative Representative - National Federation of Post Office Clerks will lecture on

WHY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ORGANIZE

Thursday, July 2, Room 2050  
South Agriculture Building  
8:00 P.M.

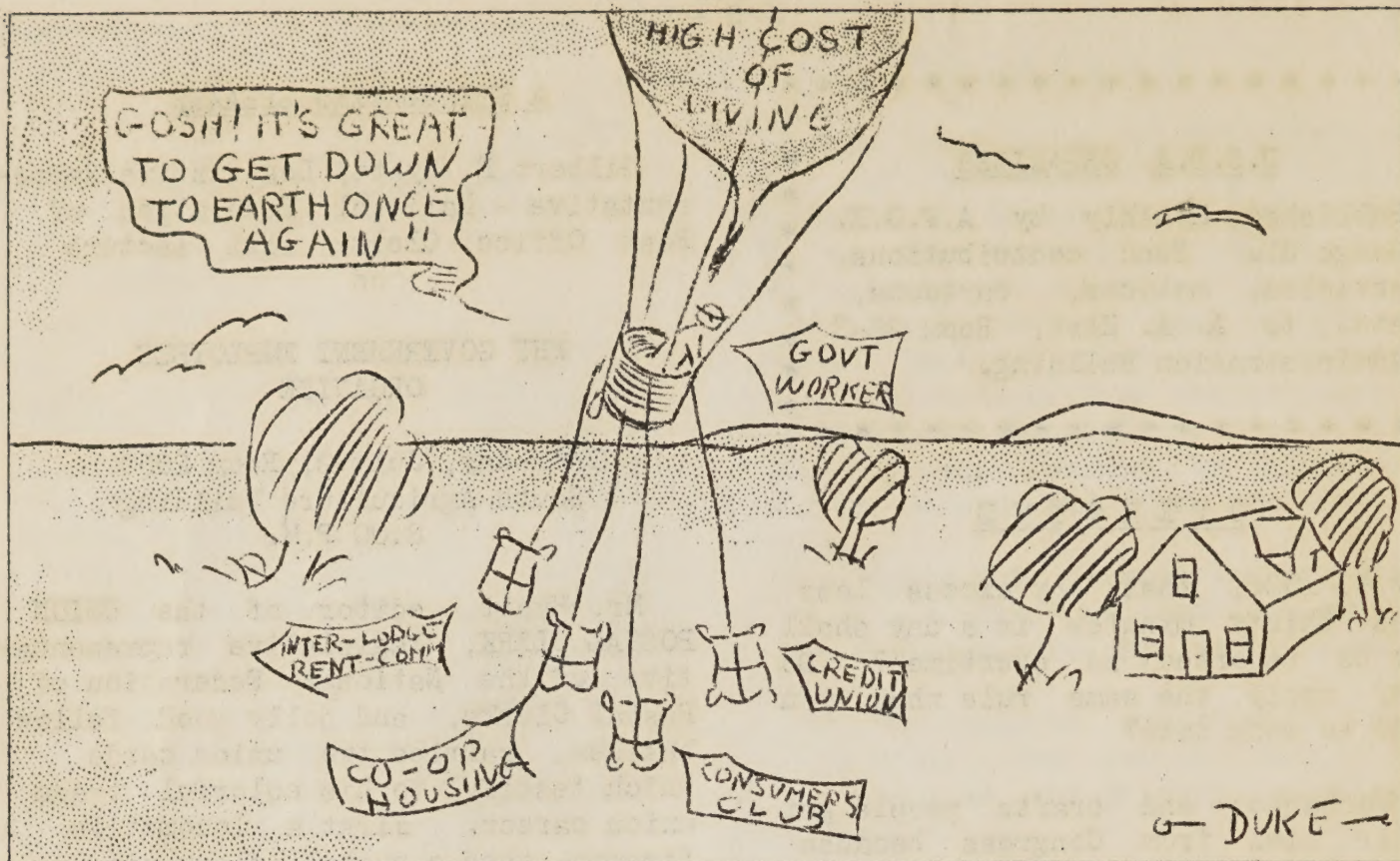
Mr. Hyatt, editor of the UNION POSTAL CLERK, legislative representative of the National Federation of Postal Clerks, and jolly good fellow besides, carries two union cards which testify to his colorful trade union career. First a locomotive fireman, then a postal clerk in Minneapolis, he has been through the wars in both the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and the Postal Clerks Union, which latter is the pioneer civil service organization affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. For several years he was national president of the Post Office Clerks, then he joined the staff of LABOR, the newspaper published here in Washington by the sixteen railroad labor organizations. About three years ago he was again elected to office by the Post Office Clerks, and since that time as their representative before Committees of Congress and Senate, has led his union's campaign for the five-day week which now prevails in the postal field throughout the country.

It was while reporting for LABOR that Gilbert Hyatt exposed the so-called "Farmers States Rights League" and thereby furnished some of the best ammunition the unions had in their fight for the FEDERAL CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT then pending in Congress.

(Continued Page 4, Col. 1)

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#### GILBERT E. HYATT

Searching out the incorporators of the "Farmers States Rights League", allegedly operating throughout the middle and far west as representing the real dirt farmers of the U. S. A., Mr. Hyatt found the entire outfit in a cotton mill town in North Carolina. One of the five incorporators was a cotton mill executive, another a banker, and the other three were pathetic "croppers" who didn't know what they had signed - but the "League" had a high salaried executive occupying an office which opened into the headquarters of the Southern Textile Manufacturers Association.

We feel certain that Mr. Hyatt's lecture will prove to be of great interest to the employees of the Department.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Dr. A. F. Woods, Director of \*  
 \* Scientific Work, Department of \*  
 \* Agriculture, states: \*  
 \* "As an economic investment and \*  
 \* to fulfill a social responsibil- \*  
 \* ity, professional workers should \*  
 \* join an employees' organization." \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Through the efforts of govern- \*  
 \* ment unions government employees \*  
 \* have gained The Leave Bill, \*  
 \* Pay Cut Restoration, Saturday \*  
 \* half holiday, The Retirement \*  
 \* Act, Classification Act, Com- \*  
 \* pensation Act, defeat of the \*  
 \* Borland Rider, the right to \*  
 \* organize, etc., etc. \*  
 \* JOIN LODGE 31, A.F.G.E. \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

#### INTER-LODGE RENT COMMITTEE

This Committee is composed of a group of A.F.G.E. Lodges and craft unions of the Washington Central Labor Union. Through its efforts the Ellenbogen District Rent Bill was introduced in the House and failed to pass only by a narrow margin. This Committee will be active during the next session of Congress for similar legislation which will allow excessive rents to be scaled down.

\*\*\*\*\*

COME AND LEARN WHAT THE UNIONS  
 HAVE DONE FOR US.



## U.S.D.A. CREDIT UNION

(The Loan Sharks' Enemy)

When the Agricultural Employees Credit Union held its second annual membership meeting in January last, reports disclosed 600 members, 334 borrowers, over \$15,000 paid in on shares by members, and over \$37,000 of loans made, of which \$22,000 had been repaid, the remainder still out on unexpired loans.

Membership in the Credit Union is open to the Department of Agriculture and A.A.A. employees. It is a co-operative credit association. Its purpose is to promote thrift through saving and help its members out of difficulties by making loans from such savings to them. Loans can only be made to members, the rate of interest 1% per month on unpaid balances, which covers all costs. Subscription for at least one share of \$10.00 is required, plus an entrance fee of 25¢. Shares are payable in installments of 50¢ semi-monthly. Members are eligible to make applications for loan on payment of the entrance fee and first installment. Loans have been made for such useful purposes as consolidation of old debts, payment of school fees, taxes, medical services, moving of household goods, etc. The annual membership meeting declared a dividend payment of 6% to shareholders out of net earnings. Mr. George W. Morrison, the treasurer, Room 2871 South Building, Extension 2213, receives membership applications.

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## WASHINGTON CONSUMERS' CLUB

The increasing educational and buying activities of the Washington Consumers' Club should interest those of us who show concern for our welfare as consumers. In existence for almost two years, the club is operated as a consumers' co-operative and, among other things, looks to securing for its members goods and services of high quality at the

best possible prices, through the pooling of the members' buying powers.

Collective purchases by thirty-four members alone amounted to almost \$900 in the short period of three months. The savings on these and other purchases, which first go into the treasury of the Club, have already been distributed to the members. The Club meets on the second Wednesday (8 P. M.) of the month at the Central High School. Its lively meetings are attended by a goodly number of its 200 members. Detailed information and membership applications can be secured from the Secretary of the Club, Mr. Fred Compton, 5512 - 7th Street, N.W., Telephone Georgia 2679.

This Consumers' organization should not be confused with others of a similar name and nature.

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## THE HOUSING PROJECT

This is just a reminder that the informational outline and questionnaire concerning the proposed Housing Project for the Department of Agriculture employees and others can still be obtained from Dr. Frederic C. Howe, Special Adviser, Office of the Secretary, Room 221, Administration Building.

The Housing Project is a non-profit venture. It is hoped not only to provide individual houses but apartments as well. Savings are expected from the elimination of promoters' profits, selling commissions, economies of large scale production and wholesale buying and building, as well as the purchase and development of low-priced land, the increase in value of which is to accrue to the group in the project.

Many questionnaires have already been filled in and returned, and work has been started by the committees on sites, architectural exhibits, plans, cost and equipment, and on organization, financing and corporate structure.



OFFICERS AND  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN  
LODGE 31

Lodge 31 Activities Are Proving  
Effective.

President John Schricker  
1st Vice-President E. L. Warren  
2nd Vice-President James Maxwell  
3rd Vice-President Charles Wright  
Corresponding Sec'y. Rae Sowell  
Recording Sec'y. Carolyn Beard  
Treasurer H. P. Newton

The Membership is Growing.

\$1.00

pays for

Initiation Fee

Committee Chairmen

and one month's

Grievance Martin Leatherman  
Education Mark Hyde  
Trade Union-  
Co-operative J. H. Radabaugh  
Legislative Sigmund Timberg  
Membership C. C. Warren  
Program E. L. Warren

dues.

Monthly dues 50¢.

All of the above Committees are short  
of active participants.

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* LODGE 31 MEETS \*  
\* Thursday, June 18th, 1936 \*  
\* 8:00 P. M. \*  
\* in \*  
\* Room 2050, South Agriculture Bldg. \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES

MORE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEEMEN NEEDED TO OBTAIN NEW MEMBERS

The present Membership Committee comprises:

Mr. H. P. Newton, Arlington Farm.  
Mr. R. Sowell, Room 3718, South Building.  
Miss Anne Gross, Room 4761, South Building.  
Mr. M. Leatherman, Room 2148, South Building.  
Mr. A. A. Hirt, BAI, Room 40-E, Administration Building.  
Miss E. L. Terry, Room 309, Administration Building.  
Mr. J. Schricker, Room 3630, South Building.  
Mr. C. C. Warren, Room 3718, South Building.  
Mr. Walter School, American University.  
Mr. M. Shaber, SCS, Room 202, Standard Oil Building.  
Mr. W. B. Couch, Bay 2, Federal Surplus Comm. Corp., 19th & D., N.W.  
Miss Carolyn Beard, Room 1104, South Building.  
Mr. G. A. Dice, Room 0714, South Building.  
Miss S. H. Dannhardt, Room 2416, South Building.

Name ..... Date .....  
I hereby apply for membership in Lodge 31,  
American Federation of Government Employees.  
Home address.....  
Bureau ..... Home phone .....  
Office Room No. .... Building .....  
Office Phone No. ....  
Please give office room number and building.